

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12323 121207Z

53

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1579

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 12323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA UR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS

REF: A) MOSCOW 11781; B) STATE 170157

1. WHILE VARIOUS SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS, WHOSE EFFORTS COORDINATED BY STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST), PREPARED PROGRAM FOR AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION (AGA) OFFICIALS, SOVIET SIDE UNWILLING TO ACT AS OFFICIAL "SPONSOR" FOR GROUP. REGARDING VISAS, THEREFORE, AGA PARTICIPANTS AND BRITISH COLLEAGUES SHOULD APPLY FOR TOURIST VISAS, PURCHASING MEALS AND ACCOMMODATIONS THROUGH INTOURIST-APPROVED TRAVEL AGENCIES IN US AND UK.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH SCST OFFICIAL AUGUST 9 IT APPEARS SOVIETS HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION TO COMPLETE BEFORE FINAL PROGRAM FOR AGA GROUP CAN BE SET UP. PREVIOUS EMBASSY EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH VISITS HAS SHOWN THAT DETAILS OF MEETINGS, PLANT TOURS (IF ALLOWED), ETC., WILL BE PINNED DOWN ONLY AT VERY LAST MINUTE. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MATTER CLOSELY, HOWEVER, AND WILL REPORT FURTHER INFORMATION AS OBTAINED.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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